

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A spatial light modulator comprising:  
a multiplicity of pixels arranged in a lattice form ~~for selecting and configured to select~~  
a transmission or reflection state and a blocking state of a corresponding light ray on each  
pixel thereby spatially modulating a light intensity of a light beam that includes the  
corresponding light ray, the spatial light modulator;  
wherein a light transmissivity distribution or a light reflectivity distribution over  
~~whole~~ the multiplicity of pixels is set such that a light transmissivity or light reflectivity is  
lower at and around a center of ~~an arrangement~~ the lattice of the pixels and increased with an  
increasing distance from the center of the lattice, and  
the light transmissivity distribution or the light reflectivity distribution is achieved by  
the multiplicity of pixels without changing a direction of light rays within the light beam.

Claim 2 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 1, wherein the light  
transmissivity distribution or light reflectivity distribution is set substantially inversely  
proportional to Gaussian distribution.

Claim 3 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 1, wherein the light  
transmissivity through or light reflectivity upon the pixels is set on each pixel.

Claim 4 (Original): A spatial light modulator according to claim 2, wherein the light  
transmissivity through or light reflectivity upon the pixels is set on each pixel.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A holographic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising ~~at least~~:

a spatial light modulator having a multiplicity of pixels arranged in a lattice form ~~for selecting and configured to select~~ a transmission or reflection state and a blocking state of a corresponding light ray on each pixel thereby spatially modulating a light intensity of a light beam that includes the corresponding light ray, wherein a light transmissivity distribution or a light reflectivity distribution over whole the multiplicity of pixels is to be set on each pixel and wherein the light transmissivity distribution or the light reflectivity distribution is achieved by the multiplicity of pixels without changing a direction of light rays within the light beam;

light-receiving means for detecting an intensity distribution of a light beam passed through the spatial light modulator; and

control means for setting the light transmissivity through or the light reflectivity upon [[the]] a pixel, depending upon an intensity distribution of the light beam detected by the light-receiving means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A holographic recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the light-receiving means comprises:

a plurality of light-receiving elements distributed in a two-dimensional arrangement, a radial distribution function of the light-receiving elements having a value increasing with an increasing distance from a center of the light receiving means.